



'TYPE 1 ERRORS'

ALEX HODA

20 PROJECTS, 84-85 Wallstrasse, 10179 BERLIN

20 Projects is pleased to present 'Type 1 Errors', a new body of sculpture by the British artist Alex Hoda. The exhibition, set in a crumbling ballroom in Berlin's Mitte district, will be his first European solo show.

'Type One Error' is a diagnostic term, used when a null or fundamental hypothesis is wrongly rejected and produces an incorrect conclusion. In most legal systems, for instance, the null hypothesis is "innocent until proven guilty". The show's title 'Type One Errors' refers here to our ability to arrive at a false premise by misinterpreting what is in front of us, due to the wealth of associations and prejudgements automatically triggered by our subconscious. With this exhibition, Hoda's writhing metal forms, at once suggestive and impenetrable, ask us to consider whether a 'Type One Error' of biased or predetermined reading occurs when interpreting abstract sculpture.

The works on display are created in a two-stage process. First, a small amount of molten copper is poured into water causing it to react and solidify. The small, abstracted form is then digitally scanned and enlarged before being finished with a raw copper surface via the process of thermal arc welding. In pouring the copper into water, the artist forfeits his control over the metal's final shape, thus absolving himself as author. In this respect Hoda enacts his own version of the surrealist tenet of automatism, 'dissolving all control exercised by reason', to quote Andre Breton.

The process of enlargement transforms the maquette from a haphazard trinket into a sculpture of interlocking bulbous shapes. The viewer is confronted with a number of suggestions or references - from twisting limbs to screaming mouths and sexual organs. In these sculptures, the muscular forms reminiscent of the Renaissance can be found coexisting with a world of sci-fi explosions, sexual and violent energy infused with Baroque grace. Such divergent points of reference have long been the hallmark of Hoda's work in which he cast different objects and juxtaposed diverse styles. In this exhibition, however, the artist has discovered a distilled, sculptural alchemy - a method that intuitively produces the visual vocabulary for which he strives.

In 'Type 1 Errors', Alex Hoda uses a technique of automatism to challenge the viewer's approach to figurative sculpture. The works on display recall a surrealist agenda, one that is summed up by Max Ernst's desire for 'the viewer to witness the emergence of the work'; what the viewer's subconscious brings to the sculpture ultimately determines its reading.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT 20 PROJECTS

Originally launched in 2007 by Alexander Dellal as 20 Hoxton Square Projects, a collaborative project space and a creative hub for independent projects. Since its inception the gallery has gained a reputation as a dynamic space, collaborating with some of the most established galleries in the world, and presenting film screenings, charitable events, and dozens of first time solo shows for emerging and mid-career artists alike. With plans to redevelop the Hoxton Square space, 20 projects will begin to present exhibitions in a diverse range of spaces and locations worldwide, including Berlin, Miami, New York, Rio de Janeiro and Paris.

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